UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/736
10 September 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 10 SEPTEMBER 1996 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that at 1900 hours on 4 September 1996, Iraqi coast guard patrols observed two Kuwaiti patrol boats of the Viper class inside Iraqi territorial waters near buoy No. 21. There were three military personnel on board each of the boats, which were equipped with machine-guns. After being cautioned, both boats retreated in the direction of the Kuwaiti coast.

At 1300 hours on 5 September 1996, two Kuwaiti patrol boats of the Viper class, equipped with machine-guns and travelling at high speed, approached and subsequently seized a small Iraqi fishing vessel with a crew of three while it was inside our territorial waters near buoy No. 21.

I would request you to intervene with Kuwait in order to bring an end to such hostile acts, which have been frequent and are in contravention of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. These acts coincide with the American aggression to which Iraq is being exposed, the aim of which is to destabilize and raise the level of tension in the region. Kuwait must also be requested to return the Iraqi fishermen and their vessel immediately.

I reaffirm the legitimate right of the Republic of Iraq to compensation for the material losses sustained by its citizens as a consequence of these hostile acts, in accordance with the principle of international accountability.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed Hamid HASAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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